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COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Nineteenth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SECOND PART (PUBLIC)*
OF THE 57th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Friday, 4 December 1998, at 12.50 p.m.

Chairperson: Mr. ALSTON

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* The summary record of the first part (closed) of the meeting appears as document E/C.12/1998/SR.57.

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CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

The public part of the meeting was called to order at 12.50 p.m.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (agenda item 10)

1. The parts of the Committee's annual report contained in documents E/C.12/1998/CRP.1 and Add.1 and CRP.2 and Add.2 were adopted.

2. The CHAIRPERSON said that the annual report would also cover the general day of discussion on the right to education, priorities discussed in connection with the plan of action and an updated version of the Committee's working procedures, to be prepared by the Chairperson-elect.

3. It was so agreed.

GENERAL DISCUSSION: RIGHT TO EDUCATION (agenda item 7) (continued)

Workshop to identify useful benchmarks and indicators relating to the right to education

4. The CHAIRPERSON said that as a follow-up to the Committee's day of general discussion on the right to education, it had been suggested by Mr. Hunt, the new Committee member, that the Committee should recommend to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the organization of a workshop to identify benchmarks and indicators relating to the right to education. It was proposed that representatives of the United Nations bodies, international organizations and other programmes dealing with the right to education should take part in the workshop. If there was no objection, he would take it that that proposal was acceptable to th Committee.

5. It was so agreed.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS:

(a) REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLES 16 AND 17 OF THE COVENANT (agenda item 6) (continued)

6. The CHAIRPERSON suggested that the Committee should schedule for each future session a review of the implementation of the Covenant in those States parties that had thus far failed to fulfil their reporting obligations. The States parties to be considered at the forthcoming sessions were the Solomon Islands, Bolivia, the Republic of the Congo and Togo in that order. It was to be hoped that once the States parties were informed that the Committee would review the situation in their country on the basis of information from non-governmental sources, the official reports would be submitted.

7. The Chairperson's suggestion was adopted.

OTHER BUSINESS

Letter from a Spanish non-governmental organization

8. Ms. JIMÉNEZ BUTRAGUEÑO drew attention to a letter from a Spanish NGO, the United Nations Association of Spain, which was following the work of the Committee with keen interest and wished to disseminate information on it to a wider audience.

9. The CHAIRPERSON invited Ms. Jiménez Butragueño to draft a suitable reply to the organization concerned.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES ARISING IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (agenda item 3) (continued)

Draft general comment No. 11: Plan of action for primary education

10. Mr. RIEDEL asked whether it might be possible to adopt the draft general comment on primary education at the current session, on the basis of the English-language version, subject to some minor amendments to paragraph 3 thereof.

11. The CHAIRPERSON said that while it would have been timely to adopt a general comment on the subject in view of the forthcoming Oxfam campaign on education and UNICEF efforts under way, there was insufficient time to give the text thorough consideration.

12. Mr. TEXIER, endorsing the Chairperson's remarks, stressed the importance of discussing the text of draft general comments in all working languages at future sessions.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

13. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the CHAIRPERSON declared the session closed.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.